(d) This decision has not been taken. The value of 1200 lines initial phase is approx. Rs. 7 crores FOB.

Public telephones in Bombay

2887. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephones in Bombay;

(b) whether it is adequate considering the population and compared to other cities in the world;

(c) what is the plan for providing additional public telephones; and

(d) whether priority would be given for the installation of public telephones rather than private telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There are 6,455 public telephones in Bombay.

(b) and (c) Although it is not considered adequate, 580 and 598 additional public telephones have been planned for 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Creation of refining capacity for imported crude

2888. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different views by experts have been expressed regarding creation of refining capacity for imported crude or importing the finished products in view of falling international finished product prices and cost effectiveness of refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the Government's views on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The cost effectiveness of creation of indigenous refining capacity on imported crude vis-a-vis import of products would depend upon various factors such as crude/product price differential, transportation logistics and cost, degree of self sufficiency required etc. A working group constituted by the Government to look into the refining needs of the country will keep all these factors in view in preparing their report.

Action against Bharat Prakashan Limited

2889. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints of non-compliance with the provisions of Company Law in respect of the Bharat Prakashan Limited, publishers of the "Organiser" weekly have come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details of action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No such complaint appears to have been received by the Registrar of Companies, New Delhi and the headquarter of the Department of Company Affairs.

(b) Does not arise.

Combined cycle gas based power station in Gujarat

2890. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has accorded its approval for the setting up of new combined cycle gas based power station in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC has agreed to supply the requisite gas for the unit;

(c) whether this represent a major break-through for AEC as it is moving from coal to gas-based power generation; and

(d) if so, what will be the total cost and expenditure involved and whether any help has been sought from the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) In May, 1988, the Government of Gujarat accorded permission to the Ahmedabad Electricity Company for setting up a 100 MW combined cycle gas-based power plant near Ahmedabad which is envisaged as the first gas-based power plant of the Company. The gas availability for the proposed power project remains to be confirmed.

The estimated cost of the proposed project is about Rs. 140 crores. No assistance has been sought from the Central Government.

Government's liberal policy on technology imports

2891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Union Minister has pulled up industry for its failure to strengthen the research and development base despite Government's liberal policy on technology imports;

(b) if so, whether the Minister has pointed out that instead of giving utmost importance to generation upgradation, absorption and adaptation of the imported technology, the industrial units depended solely on their collaboration and associates;

(c) whether the Minister has also pointed out that the production of the Indian Industry was far below acceptable norms of international standards; and

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for the same and what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Industry is being constantly urged to strengthen their research and development base so that indigenous technologies could be developed, and imported technologies could be absorbed, adapted and improved upon to suit Indian conditions. In the case of large value foreign collaborations, the efforts made by the Indian company to absorb and adapt the imported technology are monitored.

(c) and (d) Industry is also being urged to improve their productivity and reduce their cost of production so that they can remain competitive both in internal and external markets. Modernisation and technology upgradation is being encouraged by the Goverment with a view to improving the efficiency of the industry.

Recognition to Trade Unions by BHEL

2892. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trade unions recognised by BHEL at various plants/locations as per the procedure laid down alongwith their affiliations to National Trade Union Organisations;

(b) what is the procedure laid down by BHEL for recognition of trade unions;

(c) whether perks, powers, facilities and concessions are given to the Presidents and General Secretaries of the recognisd unions; and

(d) what is the present status granted by BHEL to office-bearers of non-recognised/ illegal unions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) The list of Unions recognised or treated as recognised by BHEL is at Statement (*See* below).